

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00068 261233Z

53

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-10 L-02

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 BIB-01 /081 W

----- 054767

O P 261126Z FEB 75

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0858

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0068

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS ON
FEBRUARY 25, 1975

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE FEBRUARY 25 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE BELGIAN REP, FRG REP AND US DEPREP, AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY, POLISH REP STRULAK, AND GDR REP OESER. IN THE SESSION, THE EAST PROPOSED THAT ITS OCTOBER 15, 1974 INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL COULD EITHER BE NEGOTIATED AS PART OF THE ORIGINAL EASTERN NOVEMBER 8, 1973 DRAFT AGREEMENT OR AS AN INDEPENDENT STEP AND THAT REDUCTIONS IN THE SECOND STAGE OF THE NOVEMBER 8 DRAFT PROPOSAL COULD BE STAGGERED TO PERMIT THE US AND USSR TO REDUCE IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1976 AND THE REMAINING DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1976.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00068 261233Z

2. GDR REP LED OFF WITH STANDARD STATEMENT THAT

THE EASTERN APPROACH CONFORMED TO THE PRINCIPLES AGREED IN THE PREPARATORY TALKS AND THE WESTERN APPROACH DID NOT. FRG REP POINTED OUT THAT, UNDER BOTH EASTERN AND WESTERN APPROACHES, THE FORCES OF DIRECT PARTICIPANTS LOCATED IN THE REDUCTION AREA WOULD BE BOTH REDUCED AND LIMITED, WHILE SOVIET FORCES ON THE IMMEDIATELY ADJOINING TERRITORY OF THE USSR WOULD NEITHER BE REDUCED NOR LIMITED. TOTAL US FORCES WOULD NOT BE REDUCED OR LIMITED BUT THE US WAS 5000 KILOMETERS AWAY. HE SAID WESTERN GOVERNMENTS WERE FULLY ENTITLED TO ASK FOR AND TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR THIS INEQUITABLE SITUATION IN THE FORM OF LARGER EASTERN REDUCTIONS AS WELL AS REDUCTIONS OF US FORCES AS INDIVIDUALS AND STOCK-PILING OF THEIR EQUIPMENT.

3. KHLESTOV RESPONDED THAT, IF THE WEST WISHED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ONE AREA ADJOINING THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS AND THE FORCES ON IT, THE ENTIRE GEOGRAPHIC ENVIRONMENT AND THE FORCES IN IT SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. HE THEN STATED THAT THE EAST WISHED TO MAKE A FURTHER COMPROMISE PROPOSAL TO FACILITATE AGREEMENT. HE SAID EAST WAS READY EITHER TO AMEND THE FIRST STEP OF THE EASTERN DRAFT AGREEMENT OF NOVEMBER 8, 1973, TO INCORPORATE IN IT ALL FEATURES OF THE EASTERN INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL OR TO CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THAT INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL AS A SEPARATE MEASURE. HE SAID INCORPORATING THE INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL INTO THE ORIGINAL EASTERN DRAFT AGREEMENT WOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT THIS STEP WAS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS BUT AN INTEGRAL PART OF A PROGRAM ENVISAGING SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS. KHLESTOV ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE SECOND STAGE OF THE EASTERN DRAFT AGREEMENT OF NOVEMBER 8, 1973 BE AMENDED SO THAT IT WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE SAME STAGED WAY AS THE EAST HAD PROPOSED FOR ITS INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL. SPECIFICALLY, IN THE SECOND STAGE, THE UNITED STATES AND THE USSR WOULD EACH REDUCE 5 PERCENT OF THEIR FORCES IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1976. THE REMAINING DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WOULD REDUCE FIVE PERCENT OF THEIR FORCES IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1976.

4. ALLIED REPS SAID THEY WOULD REPORT THESE PROPOSALS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00068 261233Z

TO THEIR COLLEAGUES AND THAT A CONSIDERED JOINT REACTION WOULD BE PRESENTED AT A LATER TIME. ON A PRELIMINARY PERSONAL BASIS, THEY POINTED OUT THAT THE MERE ACT OF INCORPORATING THE INITIAL REDUCTION STEP INTO THE ORIGINAL EASTERN DRAFT AGREEMENT DID NOT CHANGE THE UNSATISFACTORY NATURE OF THAT EASTERN PROPOSAL, WHICH WAS BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF CONTRACTUALIZING THE PRESENT UNEQUAL RELATIONSHIP OF GROUND FORCES

IN THE AREA. THEY COMMENTED THAT SPLITTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STAGE TWO OF THE ORIGINAL EASTERN PROPOSAL INTO TWO PARTS, WITH US AND SOVIET REDUCTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED BY REDUCTIONS OF REMAINING DIRECT PARTICIPANTS, DID NOT CHANGE THE BASIC CHARACTER OF THAT PROPOSAL, WHICH ALSO WAS BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF CONTRACTUALIZING THE UNEQUAL RELATIONSHIP OF GROUND FORCES IN THE AREA THROUGH REDUCING EQUAL PERCENTAGES OF ALL FORCES IN THE AREA.

5. BELGIAN REP POINTED OUT THAT THE CONCEPT OF MUTUALITY IN THE AGREED TITLE OF THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS DID NOT MEAN THAT PARTICIPANTS HAD TO ACCEPT OBLIGATIONS WHICH WERE IDENTICAL AND WHICH WENT INTO EFFECT SIMULTANEOUSLY. HE EXPLAINED THAT, FOR THE WEST, THE WORD "MUTUAL" MEANT THAT EACH SIDE SHOULD ACCEPT OBLIGATIONS WHICH WERE NOT NECESSARILY THE SAME, BUT WHICH WOULD LEAD TO AN EQUITABLE OUTCOME HAVING AN EQUIVALENT TOTAL EFFECT FOR EACH SIDE. CONCERNING DATA, HE CALLED ON THE EAST TO AT LEAST TELL THE WEST WHAT REDUCTIONS IT WAS PROPOSING IN THE CONTEXT OF ITS OWN AGREEMENT. HE POINTED OUT THAT EASTERN AND WESTERN REDUCTION PROPOSALS COULD NOT EVEN BE COMPARED AS LONG AS THE EAST COULD NOT TELL THE WEST SPECIFICALLY HOW MANY REDUCTIONS IT WAS PROPOSING.

6. EASTERN REPS URGED WESTERN REPS TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THEIR NEW PROPOSALS. ALLIED REPS COMMENTED THAT THE EASTERN PROPOSALS WOULD BE STUDIED, BUT THAT EASTERN COMMENTS THUS FAR HAD NOT SATISFIED

THEM THAT THESE PROPOSALS CONTAINED SIGNIFICANT NEW CONTENT OR THAT THEY DEPARTED IN ANY WAY FROM THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 MBFR V 00068 261233Z

CONTINUED EASTERN EFFORT TO CONTRACTUALIZE THE GROUND FORCE DISPARITIES IN THE AREA.

7. IT WAS AGREED TO HOLD THE NEXT SESSION ON MARCH 4. END SUMMARY.

REMAINDER OF REPORT BEING SENT VIA AIRGRAM.DEAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, NEGOTIATIONS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MBFRV00068
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750067-0756
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750211/aaaaajqf.tel
Line Count: 161
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <02 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS ON FEBRUARY 25, 1975
TAGS: PARM, US, UR, NATO, MBFR
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006